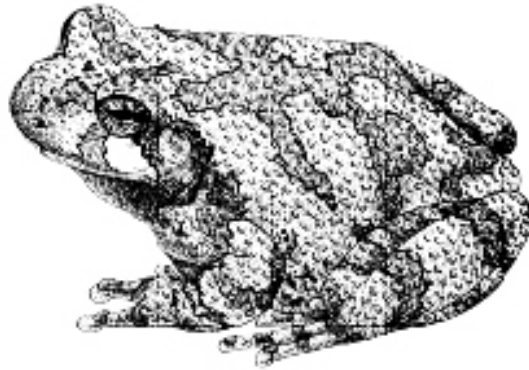

Frogwatch USA was established at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in February, 1999 by the U.S. Geological Survey. This is a long-term frog and toad monitoring program complimenting ongoing amphibian monitoring efforts across the United States.

Frogwatch USA. . .

- collects important information about frog and toad populations.
- promotes an appreciation for diversity of frogs and toads.
- fosters an understanding of the importance of wetlands.
- provides an opportunity for citizens to learn more about the environment and to become involved in natural resource management.



Brochure sponsored by the Dunloggin Middle School's "March for Parks" program.



Amphibians:

Biological Indicators in Decline

Amphibian populations worldwide are in decline and scientists want to know why. Habitat loss, exposure to contaminants, ultraviolet radiation, introduced species, parasites and fungal disease are some of the factors identified as having caused amphibian declines.

Researchers have a need to gather information on frog and toad population trends and distributions across the United States. With budget and time constraints, researchers have turned to volunteers to gather that information. You can do your part by participating in Frogwatch USA with the Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks.

How do Volunteers Help?

Volunteers are a part of the solution. Data collected by Frogwatch USA volunteers provides important information about. . .

- the distribution of frog and toad populations.
- population trends at individual ponds and wetlands.
- yearly patterns of frog and toad breeding activity.

Volunteers are required to visit their assigned pond or wetlands area twice per month from March through mid-August and conduct frog calling surveys. Each volunteer will be provided with a frog calling tape to listen to at home and familiarize themselves with the calls before going to their assigned area to conduct the survey. Recorded information will include weather conditions, the species heard calling and the calling intensity.

For more information about the program or to sign up as a volunteer in Howard County, contact Sue Muller at 410-313-4697. The recruitment period for this program is December 1 through January 31.

Howard County
Department of Recreation & Parks
presents the

Environmental Education Series

The goal of the Department of Recreation and Parks is to preserve a balance of ecological, natural and environmental values in Open Space land throughout the County. We strive to manage these areas in a way that will preserve their ecological integrity while making them available to the public for passive recreational use.

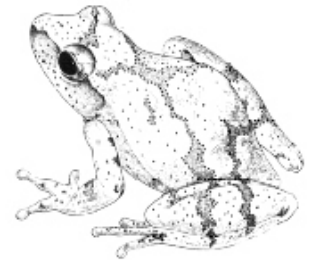
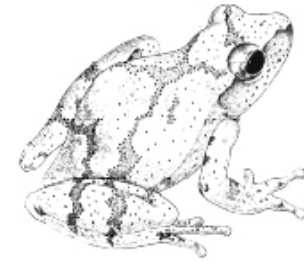
A key element in our management plan is public awareness and education. This brochure is one of a series of publications designed to educate the public on matters related to the conservation and preservation of our environment.

To help accomplish this goal, our staff is available to speak with various civic and community organizations and to assist with the planning and implementation of projects such as habitat enhancement, reforestation, stream walks, water quality monitoring, etc. It is our firm belief that only by working together can we fulfill the moral and civic responsibility with which we have all been charged . . . the stewardship of the land. For additional information, or to become involved in our program, please call 410-313-4700.

Howard County Recreation & Parks
7120 Oakland Mills Road
Columbia, Maryland 21046
(410) 313-4700 Fax: (410) 313-4660



Frogwatch USA



Department of Recreation & Parks
7120 Oakland Mills Road
Columbia, MD 21046-1677